A red panda is perched on a dark tree branch, looking towards the camera. The background is a clear blue sky with some out-of-focus autumn leaves in shades of yellow and orange. The red panda has reddish-brown fur with white markings on its face and chest.

Cotswold Wild Life Park

Burford

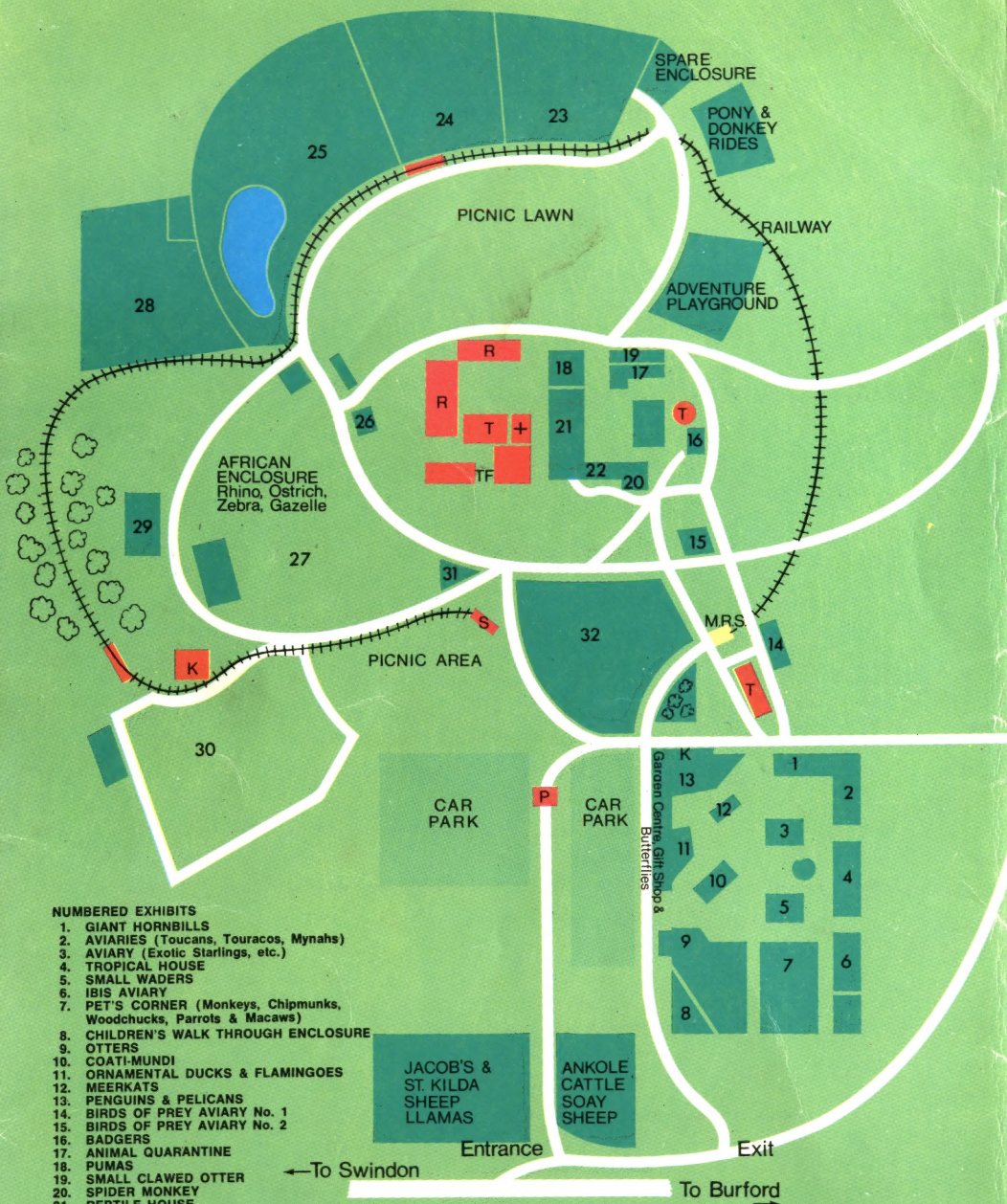
Oxfordshire

Cotswold Wild Life Park

WELCOME

The Park is the centre of Bradwell Grove Estate which covers 3,500 acres set in a beautiful corner of the Cotswolds. For many centuries farming and forestry have combined here to form a typical example of Cotswold life. The principal aim is to present a collection of animals, birds, reptiles and exotic fish from all over the world, living under almost natural conditions — a kind of zoo park where every species is provided with enough room and the correct conditions in which to live happily. Careful landscaping of lawns and gardens helps to create an effect of natural unity between animals and plants and this is enhanced by the use of walled enclosures for the animals rather than cages. Even for those who do not particularly like animals a delightful day can be spent simply wandering around the Park.





NUMBERED EXHIBITS

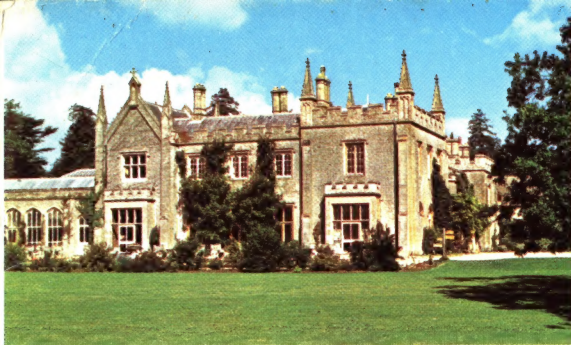
1. GIANT HORNBILLS
2. AVIARIES (Toucans, Touracos, Mynahs)
3. AVIARY (Exotic Starlings, etc.)
4. TROPICAL HOUSE
5. SMALL WADERS
6. IBIS AVIARY
7. PET'S CORNER (Monkeys, Chipmunks, Woodchucks, Parrots & Macaws)
8. CHILDREN'S WALK THROUGH ENCLOSURE
9. OTTERS
10. COATI-MUNDI
11. ORNAMENTAL DUCKS & FLAMINGOES
12. MEERKATS
13. PENGUINS & PELICANS
14. BIRDS OF PREY AVIARY No. 1
15. BIRDS OF PREY AVIARY No. 2
16. BADGERS
17. ANIMAL QUARANTINE
18. PUMAS
19. SMALL CLAWED OTTER
20. SPIDER MONKEY
21. REPTILE HOUSE
22. AQUARIUM
23. TAPIRS
24. WALLABIES Walk Through Enclosure
25. FLAMINGO LAKE (Deer, Cranes, etc.)
26. RED PANDA
27. AFRICAN ENCLOSURE (White Rhinos, Zebra, Gazelle, Ostrich)
28. WATERBUCK
29. LEOPARD
30. BACTRIAN CAMEL
31. CAPYBARA
32. EMU & SARUS CRANES

Named Enclosures: (1) ANKOLE CATTLE & SOAY SHEEP
(2) LLAMAS, JACOB'S & ST. KILDA'S SHEEP

Key to facilities within the house and grounds.

- K. Kiosk
T. Toilets
GS. Gift Shop
R. Restaurant
+ First Aid Post and Office
S. Railway Station
T.F. Telephone
P. Pay Desk
M.R.S. Main Railway Station
+++++ Railway Track

IMPORTANT
Visitors are kindly requested to note that with the exception of some of the monkeys, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc. in Pets Corner, FEEDING OF THE ANIMALS IS NOT PERMITTED. Dogs must be kept on leads at all times and are NOT allowed in any of the walk-through enclosures.



BRADWELL GROVE

The present house was built in 1804 by William Hervey in the Gothic style and succeeded the Jacobean residence as the manor house for Bradwell Grove estate. The owner, John Heyworth, inherited the estate in 1949 on the death of his grandfather, Colonel Heyworth Savage, and twenty years later it was decided to open the gardens to the public. The Park now covers 120 acres.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Times of Opening: The Park is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or dusk (whichever is earlier) every day of the year except Christmas Day.

Telephone: Park Burford 3006
Restaurant Burford 2005

Restaurant/ Self Service Cafeteria: Annexed to the south wing of the manor house overlooking the picnic lawn the restaurant seats 250 people; open for meals, teas, snacks, etc.

Bar: In the Restaurant. Open 10 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Refreshment Kiosks: Are situated near the Zebra House, the Walled Garden, in Pets Corner, and near the Adventure Playground.

Gift Shop: Gifts are sold in the main Gift Shop near the Car Park, and at the Kiosks near the Zebra House and in Pets Corner.

Lost Property: Visitors are requested to report any article found or lost to the Office in the Manor House.

Dogs: Dogs are permitted in the Park provided they are kept on a lead. No dogs are allowed in any of the walk-through enclosures.

Lost Children and First Aid Post: Situated in the Manor House near the Office.

Telephone Kiosk: Situated in the entrance hall of the Manor House.

Toilets:

1. Opposite the Office in the Manor House (Suitable for Disabled).
2. Near the entrance to the Walled Garden.
3. At rear of House near Adventure Playground.
4. In the Restaurant.

Party Rates: Party rates are available for parties of twenty or more. Please write for details.

Feeding Times: Vultures — 4 p.m. Sat., Sun., Tues., Thurs.
Penguins — Times on notice board.

Invalid Chairs: A number of chairs are available. Please apply to the Office.

Education Department: For residential courses contact: Mr. M. Molesworth. Telephone: Carterton 842468 or write to: The Alvescot Field Studies Centre, Greystones, Lower End, Alvescot, Oxon.

School Parties: Party rates available. Children **must** be accompanied by an adult at the ratio of one to twenty.

THE WALLED GARDEN

Once the kitchen garden to the estate, this area has been completely stripped and re-designed to include carefully laid out lawns, flower beds and winding paths, as well as a variety of exotic birds and small mammals. Among these are toucans, those avian clowns from the New World tropics; hornbills, in no way related, but equally impressive with their huge and apparently top-heavy casques, from S.E. Asia; African Starlings; thrushes which laugh, tiny finches and great elegant herons. Flamingoes share a lawn and pool with a dazzling variety of ornamental ducks; sacred ibis, worshipped by the Ancient Egyptians, and now very rare in Egypt — take delight in soaring from one end of their enormous aviary to the other (They have bred in three successive years). In the penguin enclosure Humboldt's penguins from Peru and amusing little Rockhopper penguins from the Antarctic live in harmony with pelicans. Other exotic birds include touracous from the African forests whose brilliant colours are true pigments (when stirred in certain liquids a touracou's feather will lose its colour) and small delicate waders such as stilts and ring necked plovers. Many of the birds have already nested and successfully reared young.



Tropical House

Once the old conservatory, this house (converted to the present layout during March 1972) now contains a profusion of tropical plants such as Hibiscus, Colacasia, Dracaena, rubber plants, banana trees and palms. Covering the walls are abutilons, bouganvillea, plumbago, hederia and cissus. Among this rich greenery lives a colourful variety of birds, including several kinds of hummingbirds whose wings beat at over 100 times a second and who feed almost exclusively on nectar contained in small tubes hung up in the aviary, and fruit flies which abound. In addition there are lily-trotters—delicate long-toed birds whose name is derived from their ability to walk on water lilies. Several varieties of sunbird, Africa's answer to the hummingbirds of the New World, somehow manage to live in relative harmony with their American counterparts although both families are extremely aggressive and territorial. Zosterops, or white eyes, endearing little birds with rings of white round their eyes, are always on the move and have nested and reared young on several occasions, as have the violet backed starlings from Africa. Bee eaters, yellow winged sugarbirds and many more can all be seen living among the foliage.



Key to photographs

Top left: **Toucan**

Top right: **Great Blue Touraco**

Centre: **Tropical House**

Bottom left: **Bee Eater**

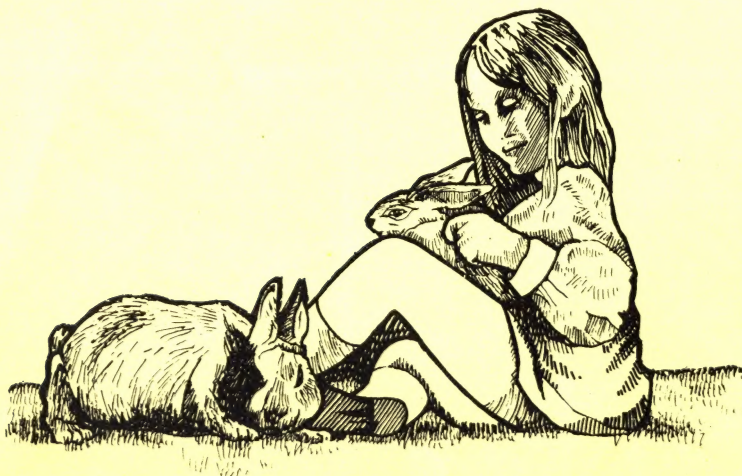
Bottom right: **Fairy Blue Bird**



PETS CORNER

Designed mainly for children, the Pets Corner contains many old favourites such as big lop eared rabbits, guinea pigs and farmyard ducks. At certain times of the year there are also lambs and young goats among which the children are encouraged to mix in the walk-in enclosure. The wide variety of colourful and amusing parrots include 'Uncle Mac' the macaw who has a house all to himself, and African grey parrots and cockatoos. The cages of these birds are built of heavy welded mesh so that they cannot chew through them, though during the summer months the macaws are allowed their freedom and spend most of the day climbing around their barrels above the heads of the children in the walk-in enclosure. The budgerigars, natives of Australia, are favourites with visitors of all ages.

The capuchin and cheeky looking squirrel monkeys from South America delight in showing off and amusing visitors with their acrobatic antics. Other mammals include a large and ever growing family of chipmunks from America and their larger, much heavier cousins woodchucks which are seldom seen in zoos. Like all true rodents their teeth continue to grow throughout life — so that hard vegetable foods are necessary to keep them in shape. Woodchucks hibernate during cold winters and will nearly treble their weight in readiness for their long sleep.





Macaw

Squirrel Monkeys



Smooth Otters (*Lutra perspicillata*) S.E. Asia

Otters are found in almost every part of the world. They are playful, intelligent animals and quickly become tame, though are capable of giving a savage bite. They feed mainly upon fish but will also eat invertebrates, small birds and mammals. Two or three cubs are born in a holt situated under a hollow tree or rocky crevice near the water, after a gestation period of approximately 3 months.

Coati Mundi (*Nasua nasua*) South and Central America

These delightful little animals are related to the racoons and kinkajous. In their wild state they travel the South American forests in bands numbering between five and twelve, feeding on fruits, insects, small animals and vegetables. Several coatis have been born and reared at the Park.

Meerkats (*Suricata suricata*) South Africa

These appealing little animals are closely related to mongooses. They inhabit the dry, open grasslands of South Africa, in large colonies, sleeping and nesting in burrows. They can be very aggressive and have been known to attack animals much larger than themselves. They feed on small mammals, birds and insects. They have bred at the Park on two occasions, but this is rare in zoos.

Penguins

There are about eighteen kinds of penguin and not all of them come from the Antarctic. The Humboldt's penguin, for instance, can almost be called a tropical species as it comes from the West coast of South America. Most of its time, however, is spent in the rich feeding waters of the cool Humboldt current. The little rockhopper penguins, on the other hand, inhabit the scattered islands surrounding the Antarctic continent. As their name suggests their principal method of propulsion on land is hopping. They are smaller than Humboldt's and possess crests of yellow feathers on their heads. Like Humboldt's they nest among banks of tussock grass in large colonies and generally lay two eggs. All penguins feed primarily upon fish, though in the wild they eat a variety of other small sea creatures as well.

Pelicans

One of the largest flying birds with a wing span of nearly ten feet, the pelican is perhaps most famous for its extraordinary bill which it uses as a net for scooping up fish, which it drives into shallow water to make 'netting' easier. The white pelican, now becoming scarce, lives mainly on the marshes and coastal waterways of southern Europe, while the attractive brown pelican, the smallest of the family, comes from the New World. Pelicans nest both on the ground and in trees.



Smooth Otters



Meerkat



Penguin
Pool

BIRDS OF PREY

This title encompasses a vast assemblage of birds well known for their hunting prowess. They have strong curved beaks for tearing flesh, and powerful feet and claws. They also possess extremely keen sight and some hunt on the wing. Most birds of prey feed on mammals and other birds, some on fish and reptiles, others on carrion. The bataleur eagle of Africa also feeds on venomous snakes. Dwarfing the eagles in size are the huge vultures, such as the European griffon vulture and the lappet-faced vulture from Africa. These are mainly scavengers and share the aviary near the entrance to the Walled Garden, with the bataleur eagles. The other bird of prey aviary contains a group of caracara which range from the United States to Tierra del Fuego. These are hawks and feed mainly on carrion. The adjoining cage contains great eagle owls, the giants of the owl tribe — they range in various forms, from southern Europe to Asia and North Africa. Eagle owls are extremely aggressive to other birds, which is why they are confined to an aviary of their own. They can kill birds and animals as large, if not larger, than themselves.



Eagle



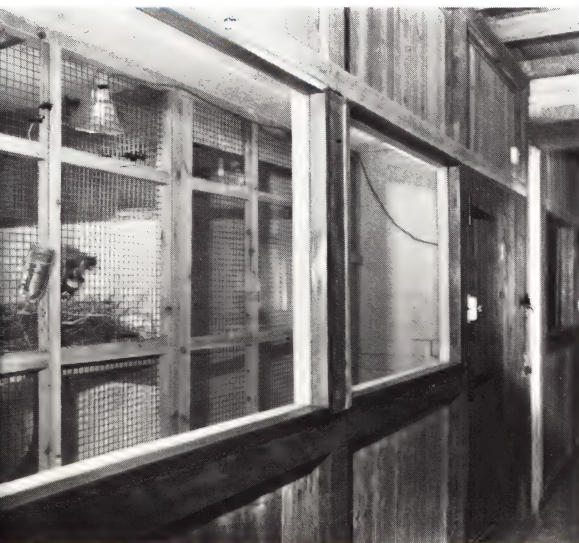
Vulture



European Badger (*Meles meles*) Europe and Asia

Brock the badger is a well known British mammal but since badgers are nocturnal they are rarely seen. They are extremely powerful creatures with strong clawed forepaws and formidable jaws. Though they will eat almost anything, badgers feed mainly on young rabbits, rats, slugs, worms, bees and their larvae, berries, acorns and roots. They build extensive burrows known as 'sets'. These workings often extend over a large area of woodland. Badgers usually live in pairs and give birth to two or three young which are born in February or March after a gestation period of 7 months. The animals at the Park were obtained as orphaned youngsters, but although hand reared they are no longer tame.

QUARANTINE QUARTERS



Most animals entering this country have to undergo a period in quarantine before they can go out into the zoo. For this reason Ministry-approved quarantine quarters are a necessary part of every modern zoo. For the majority of mammals, excluding hoofed animals, the quarantine period is six months. This is enough time for any diseases the animals may be carrying, to be detected. Luckily the animals may be seen by the visitors through glass during this period. In addition these quarters are sometimes used as temporary holding pens where animals can be accommodated for a few days or weeks until permanent quarters are available for them; sometimes they are also used as hospital cages. Therefore anything from a sick leopard to a group of otters undergoing quarantine may be seen here, or on some days the pens may be empty.



Family of Pumas



Spider Monkey



Small Clawed Otter

Puma (*Puma concolor*) N. and S. America

Known also as the mountain lion, the puma inhabits an enormous area from Northern Canada almost to the tip of South America. Although it feeds generally upon deer and small animals such as peccaries, rats and agouties, in some parts of America it is known to kill full-grown cattle, even horses. In captivity pumas eat about five pounds of raw meat daily and because in the wild they do not eat every day they are starved one day per week.

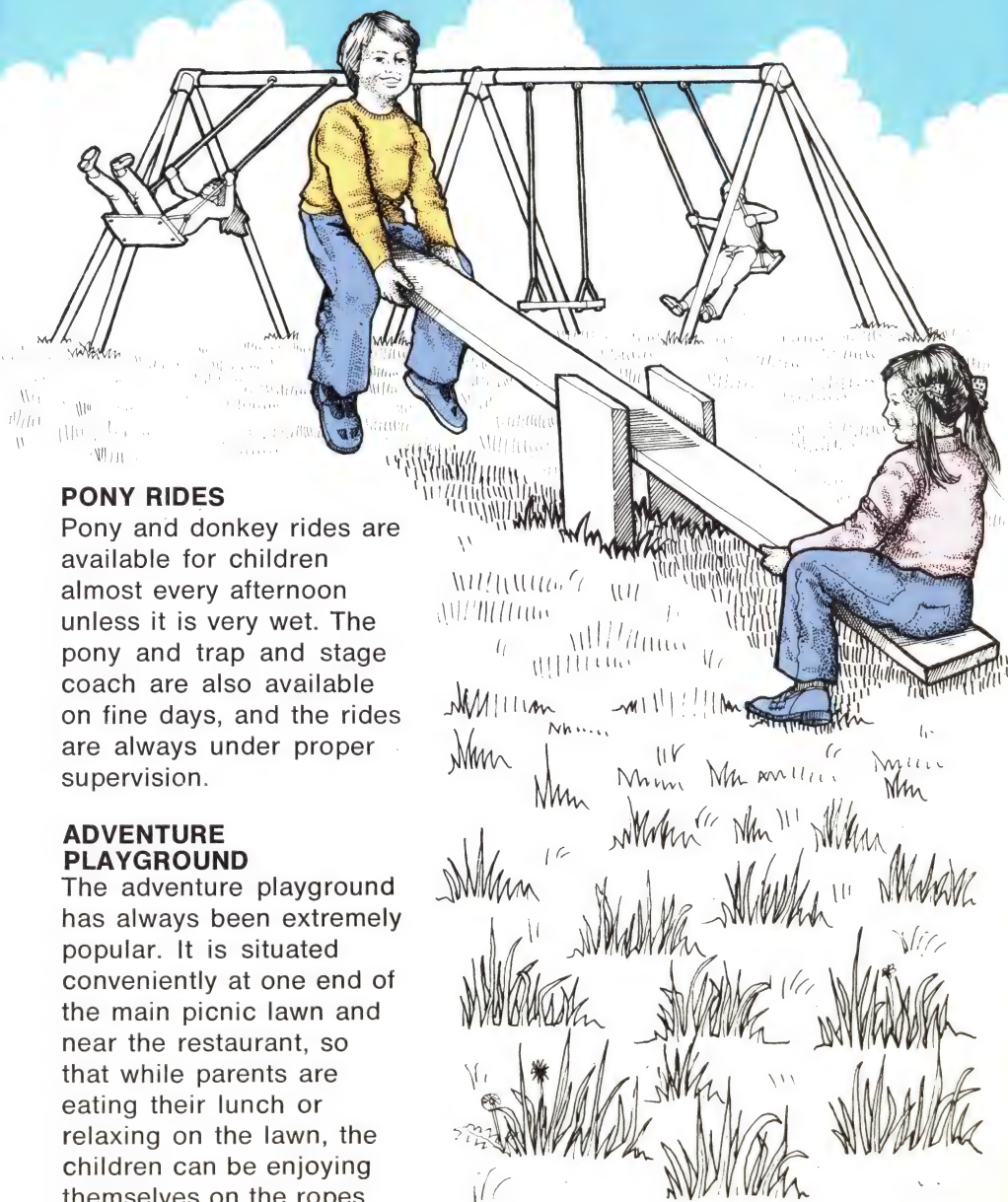
Small Clawed Otters (*Ablonyx cinerea*) S.E. Asia

Known also as the clawless otter, though it does in fact possess small claws, this is one of the smallest of all otters. Its colouration varies according to the region in which it lives but is usually a rich chocolate brown colour. It is not as aquatic as the larger smooth otters and does not therefore have such a deep pool, and it is certainly not as aggressive — in fact they are very tame and playful, though can still give a nasty nip. They eat the same food as the smooth otters, and it is hoped that one day they will breed.

Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) S. America

Spider monkeys are amongst the world's great acrobats. Like most South American monkeys they have a prehensile tail which they use as another hand. They are called spider monkeys on account of their slender bodies and long spidery limbs. They live in family groups in humid tropical forest and feed mainly upon leaves, insects, seeds and berries with some fruit. They have bred at the Park.





PONY RIDES

Pony and donkey rides are available for children almost every afternoon unless it is very wet. The pony and trap and stage coach are also available on fine days, and the rides are always under proper supervision.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

The adventure playground has always been extremely popular. It is situated conveniently at one end of the main picnic lawn and near the restaurant, so that while parents are eating their lunch or relaxing on the lawn, the children can be enjoying themselves on the ropes and swings.



Python



Green Iguana

REPTILE HOUSE

The Reptile House and Aquarium were opened at Easter 1970. Each vivarium is thermostatically controlled, in many special ultra-violet radiation has been installed and all are double glazed to avoid heat loss.

Reptiles.

Reptiles are cold blooded, their body temperature is controlled by the temperature of the surrounding air. Therefore most reptiles come from warm latitudes; those that do not such as the European adder and grass snake hibernate during the coldest months.

Pythons and Boas.

This group includes the giant constricting snakes which reach lengths of over thirty feet. None possesses poison fangs, but kill by constriction — by squeezing and suffocating their prey. These include the pythons from Asia and Africa and the Boas and Anacondas from South America. Other snakes such as rat snakes and grass snakes which are non-venomous are also well represented.

Lizards.

Lizards are an ancient group of reptiles distributed throughout the world. They vary in size from tiny geckos of a few inches to the huge monitor lizards, the largest of which, the Komodo dragon of Indonesia grows to a length of almost fifteen feet. Some lizards are vegetarian while others feed upon insects, birds and small mammals. As a group they include iguanas, monitors, tegus, agamids, etc.

Pit Vipers.

Pit Vipers are so called because they possess facial pits situated below the snout which act as heat detectors and which help the snake to seek out warm blooded prey. Some pit vipers come from Eastern Asia but the majority live in the New World. This family includes rattlesnakes and moccasins, both of which are highly venomous.

Other venomous snakes in the collection often include Indian cobras, puff adders and rear-fanged long nosed tree snakes from Asia.

Crocodiles.

Several crocodilians are represented in the collection. These include gavials (still immature)) and the Mississippi alligator from North America, both of which can grow to 20 feet or more.





Left: **Ostrich**
Far left: **Thomson's Gazelles**

AQUARIUM

Like the Reptile House the Aquarium has been built into an old stable block and for this reason is rather limited in scope.

Although many familiar tropical fish are included, the accent here is on tropical marine fish which, though often difficult to maintain are well worth the effort. These living jewels inhabit the tropical coral seas where they represent the most scintillating array of colour, incomparable in the world of nature. With the advent of commercially prepared 'sea salts' the keeping of these beautiful fish is no longer the prerogative of the major zoos and aquaria. A great problem with tropical marines is their aggressive nature, especially towards one another. For this reason many of them have to be replaced by smaller fish when they become adult. The fish exhibited include tangs and surgeons which possess razor sharp 'scalpels' resting in sheaths at the base of their tails which, when erected can be used as threshing weapons; dark and graceful batfish and puffer fish that can blow themselves up when annoyed or in danger and possess teeth strangely similar to the teeth of rodents, though they feed on other small sea creatures. Then there are scorpion or lion fish which look for all the world like pin cushions — their spines can inflict very painful wounds — and clown fish which live among the tentacles of poisonous sea anemones in a unique symbiotic relationship, and many more. Among fresh water tropicals can be seen angel fish, gouramies, swordtails, piranhas and blind cave fish.



Clown Fish



Majestic Surgeon



Emperor Tang





TREES and PLANTS

Over 200,000 trees have been planted on the Bradwell Grove Estate during the last 25 years, and many different species flourish. Some outstanding specimens at the Park include the oak by the conservatory, near the new restaurant, reckoned by experts to be over 800 years old, and the wellingtonia (*sequoia gigantea*) a mere 130 years of age, that dominates the surrounding countryside.

The observant visitor will also be able to identify many other trees including ash, beech, birch, chestnut, elm, lime, maple, poplar, sycamore and willow, scarlet and cork oak, and different varieties of cedar, cypress, spruce, pine, larch, fir, yew and the huge Californian redwood, a relative of the wellingtonia.

Key for trees and plants

- A Beech
- B *Clematis* (Nellie Moser)
- C English Oak
- D *Magnolia Grandiflora*
- E *Viburnum opulus sterile*
- F *Rhus cotinus*
- G Californian Redwood
- H Lawson's Cypress
- I *Hypericum calycisium*
- J Yew
- K *Cornus alba spaethi* (Dogwood)



A



B



C



D



F



G



H



E



J



I



K

WALK THROUGH ENCLOSURES

Brazilian Tapir

(*Tapir terrestris*)

South America

Superficially resembling pigs tapirs are in fact odd-toed ungulates and therefore more closely related to the horse and rhinoceros. Though one species lives in Malaya the rest are confined to the New World where they inhabit the tropical forest never far from water. They are good swimmers and feed upon aquatic vegetation, fallen fruits, etc. They do well in captivity and produce young at the Park regularly. The babies are striped and spotted but lose these markings at about six months.



Bennetts Wallaby

(*Protemnodon rufogrisea*)

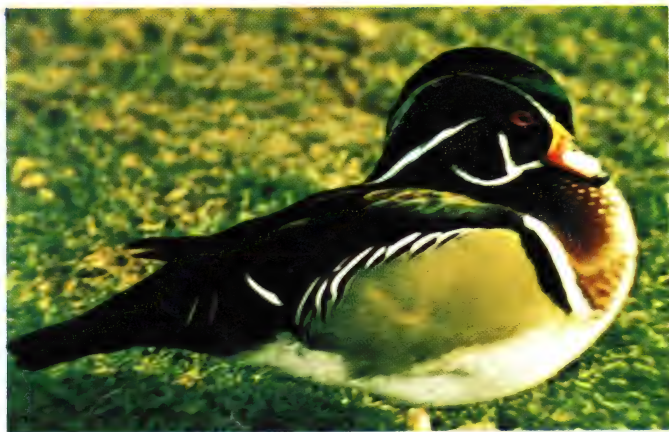
Australia and Tasmania

In the wild these wallabies inhabit thick bush country. They do well in captivity and soon become tame. In some of the wilder parts of Britain wallabies escaped from zoos have gone feral and established successful breeding groups at liberty. Like their larger cousins kangaroos they are marsupials and carry their young in a pouch, and have bred at the Park on several occasions. They feed upon all types of vegetable matter but are chiefly browsers. Lilford cranes from Europe and minute Chinese water deer that have tusks instead of antlers live in harmony with the wallabies.





Flamingo Lake



Carolina Duck

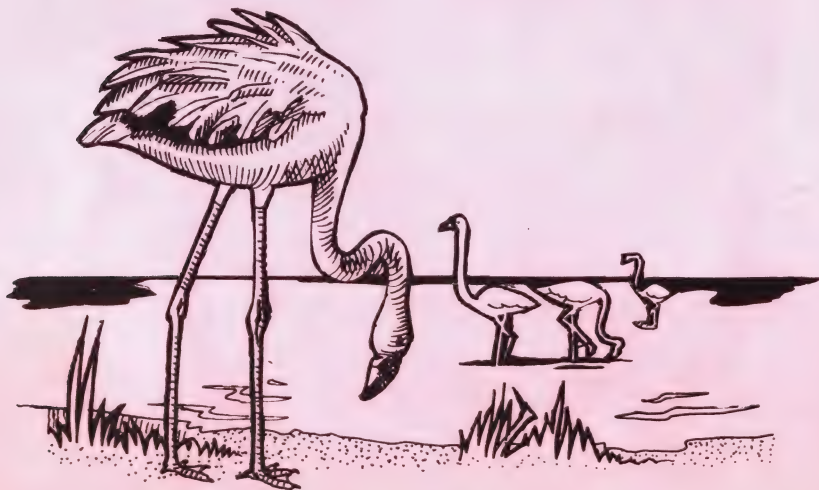
Flamingoes.

Among the most elegant of birds the flamingo's beauty contrasts strongly with the nature of its habitat, that of muddy, often stinking alkaline lakes on which they gather in countless thousands.

Their food, in abundance in these lakes, consists of a highly nitrogenous mush containing a rich mixture of algae, diatoms, protozoans, small worms and other minute forms of animal life. By a pumping mechanism in the bird's throat this soup is forced up through a sieve in the beak and the food strained off. Flamingoes are widely spread throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. There are six species although three of these are often collectively known as Greater flamingoes. Most of those at the Park are Chileans.

Besides a breeding group of demoiselle cranes and a group of crowned cranes this enclosure also contains a selection of better known ducks, geese and swans, many of which are free flying and very tame. Most of them will approach visitors for food. They include common shelduck, South African shelduck, muscovy, Chinese and Canadian geese and black swans.

Peafowl also abound — the male of this species is better known as the peacock. They are common in zoos and parks and are among the most beautiful of the world's birds. They originated in the East. A small group of sika deer from S.E. Asia also share this enclosure.





Demoiselle Crane

(Anthropoides virgo)

Eastern Europe and Asia

One of four kinds of crane kept at the Park, the elegant demoiselle is one of the smallest of the family. Cranes feed on a variety of small animals such as insects, mice, birds and lizards, as well as grain and vegetable matter. They do well if kept in fairly natural conditions as they are at the Park and a pair of the group has produced young on three successive years. They are said to pair for life.



Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon*)

S.E. Asia

These small Asian deer were introduced into England at the beginning of the century and are now living wild in many parts of Britain. Like most deer the males possess antlers which are used as weapons to fight for possession of the herd — each stag during the 'rutting' or mating season, gathers a harem of hinds. They feed upon grass and browse.



RED PANDA

Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) Western China and Eastern Himalayas
These delightful animals come from the high forests of Western China and the Eastern Himalayas at an altitude of between 7,000 and 12,000 feet. They are closely related to the more famous giant panda but are not nearly so rare, and their distant cousins are the raccoons and coatis from North America. Red Pandas feed upon bamboo shoots, lichen, insects, small mammals and birds. In captivity they are very fond of semolina and apples. The red panda is the emblem of the Park.

Waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*)
East Africa

These shaggy deer-like antelope are found down the eastern side of Africa from Abyssinia to the Transvaal. They inhabit country with plenty of tall grass and never appear to stray very far from water or marshy areas. They are the only African antelopes to have the white markings forming a crescent-like ring on the rump. Only the males possess horns.



LLAMA ENCLOSURE

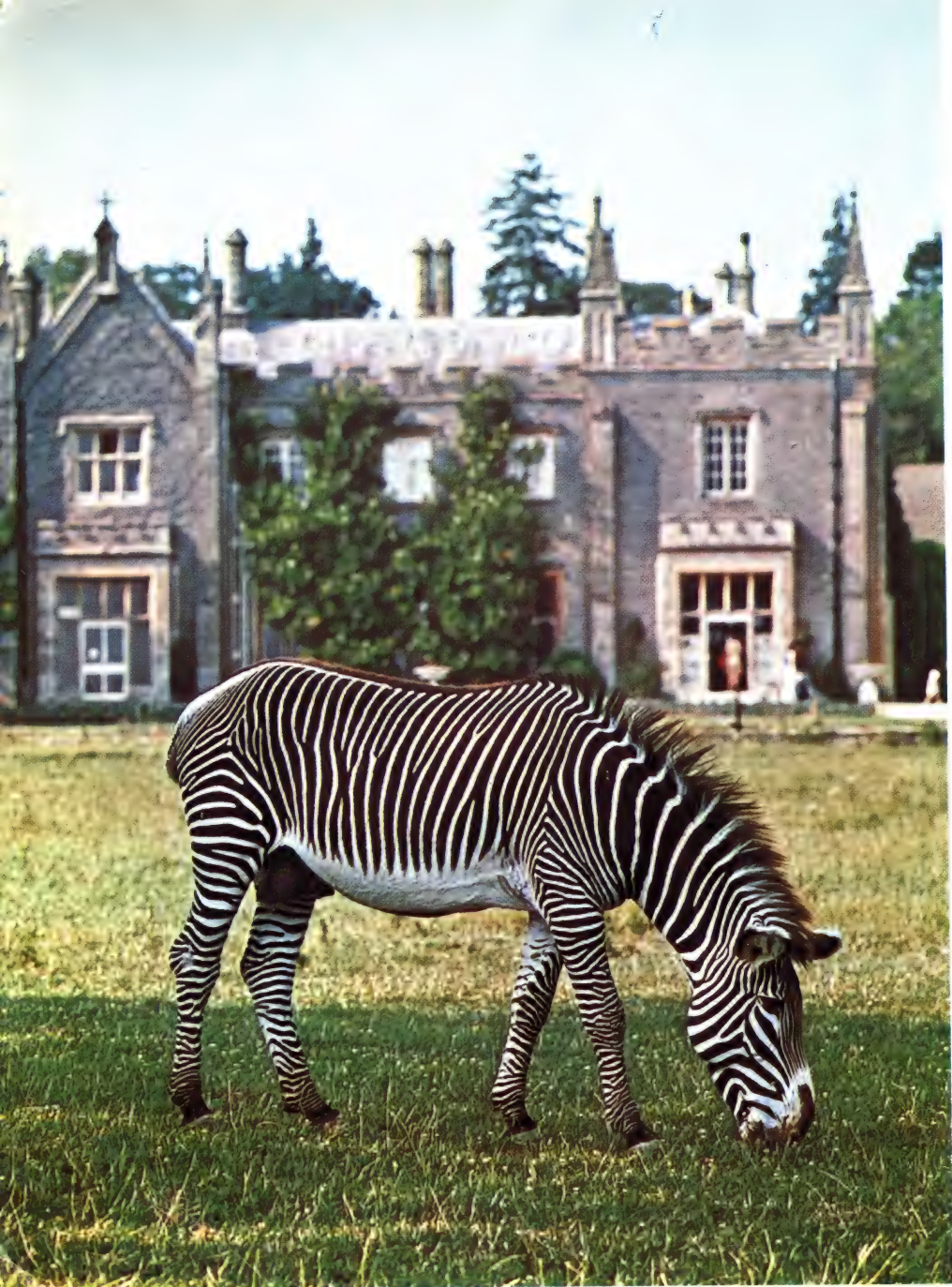
Please note that llamas and rheas are now kept in the enclosure by the entrance drive.

Llama (*Llama glama*) S. America
The llama no longer exists in the wild state. It was domesticated by the Peruvian Indians at the time of the Inca civilisation and has been used as a pack animal ever since. It provides the Indian with almost every necessity of life, from clothes and food to candles and fuel. Llamas are gentle, grazing animals closely related to camels.



Rhea (*Rhea Americana*) S. America
Sometimes called the South American ostrich, for obvious reasons, the rhea stands five to six feet tall and weighs sixty pounds. It is the largest of the New World birds and roams the pampas of the Argentine and Brazil in large bands, relying on its running speed to escape its enemies. The rhea has a wide range of diet but is mainly vegetarian.





Zebra

AFRICAN ENCLOSURE

Grevy Zebra (*Equus grevyi*) Abyssinia, Somalia and E. Africa
There are several kinds of zebra, but the Grevy is the largest and comes from the semi-desert regions of Northern Kenya and Somalia where it roams in bands in company with oryx and eland. It is often considered to be more tractable than the smaller common zebra. Grevys often breed in captivity, the gestation period being 13 months. Those at the Park arrived early in 1972.

White Rhino (*Diceros simus*) Central Africa and Zululand
The white rhino is, with the exception of the elephant, the world's largest land mammal. A fully grown male may weigh as much as four tons and stand over six feet at the shoulder. It feeds entirely on grass for which its wide mouth is a perfect adaption. The term 'white' comes from the Dutch word 'weit' meaning wide, hence wide-lipped rhino, and from this the term 'white' is derived; the name has nothing to do with the animal's colour. Until recently the white rhino was in danger of extinction, but thanks to the protective measures of the Natal Parks Board, in S. Africa, it is now on the increase. The Park's pair, Somtuli and Lebombo, arrived from Natal in August 1972; they were then both about five years old. White rhinos have only rarely been born in captivity outside of their native Africa.

Thomsons Gazelle (*Gazella thomsoni*) E. Africa
'Tommies' are the smallest of all the gazelle and live on the East African plains in countless thousands. Usually one fawn is born, sometimes two, and two calvings per year are possible. The 'Tommies' principal enemies are hyena and cheetah. These gazelle came from Kenya in August 1971. They have bred successfully at the Park on numerous occasions.

Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) Africa
This is the largest bird in the world, a fully grown adult can stand almost 8 feet and weigh up to 345 lb. Being unable to fly it relies on its running speed to escape its enemies. Ostrich are found in groups of about half a dozen, led by an adult male whose plumage is mainly black while that of the females is grey-brown. Up to fifty eggs may be laid, and incubation is carried out mainly by the male.



Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)

Africa and Asia

Leopards are mainly solitary, nocturnal creatures. They are good climbers and prefer to lie in wait on an overhanging branch for their prey to pass beneath, which includes monkeys, antelope and dogs. Although the leopard is famous for its spots, some individuals have an excess of dark pigment in their fur, making them almost totally black. These animals are known as black panthers. Our pair of leopards have reared several litters.



Bactrian Camel (*Camelus bactrianus*) Central Asia

Unlike its more slender cousin the dromedary of Arabia, the sturdy bactrian camel inhabits the cold mountain and desert regions of central Asia. It possesses two humps and a very thick coat which it sheds during the summer months. The humps are for storing food, not water and its ability to live for long periods in desert regions is due to a complex system of adaptations principally concerned with the regulation of body temperature — a camel will not begin to sweat till its body temperature reaches 104°F., therefore losing very little body fluid in extreme heat. An adult male bactrian can stand 7 feet at the shoulder. The gestation period is 13 months.

By the entrance drive can be seen **Ankole Cattle** from East Africa, a domesticated species characterised by their wide sweeping horns: also small **Soay** and **St. Kilda Sheep** from the islands off the West Coast of Scotland.

Capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) South America

Looking much like a giant guinea pig, the capybara is the World's largest rodent. An adult male may weigh as much as 100 lbs., reach a length of four feet and stand 21 inches.

They live in large groups along the river banks where they feed on lush grasses and aquatic vegetation, and spend a great deal of time in the water. They are often kept in captivity where they sometimes breed.

Emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) Australia

Emus, like ostrich and rhea belong to the ratite family and inhabit the outback of Australia. The female, slightly larger than the male may stand six feet tall and weigh 100 lb. A clutch of about nine dark green eggs is laid in a crude nest and incubated by the male. Those at the Park were obtained very young and have always remained tame.



Sarus Crane (*Grus antigone*) India

Sarus are among the largest of the cranes. They pair for life and their well-known dance is an exuberant display in which they leap, flap their wings and toss twigs into the air. They seem to perform it out of sheer joy and not specifically during the mating season. Sarus feed upon grain, insects and small mammals. They lay up to two eggs per clutch and have been successfully bred at the Park.





NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY.

Installed in 1974 and consisting of two diesel driven engines and several carriages, the narrow gauge railway is an easy and enjoyable way of getting round the Park.





EVENTS

Interesting events take place at the Park about once a month during the summer. These include Historic Vehicle Rallies, Dogs Shows and an annual Donkey Derby which always proves hilarious. Entrance to these events is free once you are inside the Park.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Residential Courses.

These courses, which now attract about 2,000 children a year from schools all over Britain, are run in conjunction with the Alvescot Field Studies Centre under the Directorship of Mr. M. N. Molesworth and are mainly available to children in the 8-12 age group, by arrangement with their local School Authority.

The courses, of 2-5 days duration, involve environmental studies at the Park and are designed to make children aware of Conservation and what it means. Modern dormitory accommodation is provided at the Field Studies Centre at Alvescot just three miles away.

Enquiries should be made to your local School Authority or direct to Mr. M. Molesworth, Director, The Alvescot Field Studies Centre, Greystones, Lower End, Alvescot, Oxon.



